

**Saddleback Ridge Wind, LLC** // Natural Resource Protection Act  
(NRPA) and Site Location of Development Act applications

- *Exhibit 1 (AR-108) Exhibit E Vermont Transcript Excerpt*  
(testimony of Dr. McCunney)

- Fmm Ex.1

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Exhibits

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STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

DOCKET NUMBER 7628

JOINT PETITION OF GREEN MOUNTAIN POWER CORPORATION,  
VERMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., AND VERMONT  
ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC. FOR A CERTIFICATE OF  
PUBLIC GOOD, PURSUANT TO 30 V.S.A SECTION 248, FOR  
AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT UP TO A 63 MW WIND ELECTRIC  
GENERATION FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES ON  
LOWELL MOUNTAIN IN LOWELL, VERMONT, AND THE  
INSTALLATION OR UPGRADE OF APPROXIMATELY 16.9 MILES  
OF TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED SUBSTATIONS IN  
LOWELL, WESTFIELD, AND JAY, VERMONT.

February 10, 2011  
9:30 a.m.

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112 State Street  
Montpelier, Vermont

Technical Hearing held before the Vermont Public  
Service Board, at the Third Floor Hearing Room,  
People's United Bank Building, 112 State Street,  
Montpelier, Vermont, on February 10, 2011, beginning at  
9:a.m..

## P R E S E N T

BOARD MEMBERS: James Volz  
David C. Coen  
John D. Burke

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1 paper was cited by the WHO from which I drew the figure.

2 Q. Would you please turn to page 37 of the ALB  
3 Cross 7 transcript? Are you there?

4 A. Page 37?

5 Q. Yes. Are you there?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. You were asked two-thirds of the way down the  
8 page, I think, how close would you feel comfortable having  
9 a wind turbine sited near your home. Do you see that?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you responded, sort of paraphrase here,  
12 tell me if I'm wrong, that the distance is not really the  
13 issue. The answer really has to be based on the sound  
14 level; is that correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And on page 38 your answer continues and you  
17 state that what you would do is you would go through and  
18 tabulate all the studies, right? Do you see that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you've done that, right? You have gone  
21 through all the studies to form your opinion, correct?

22 A. Yes, sir, at least the studies that are  
23 publicly available in peer reviewed literature.

24 Q. You then give the following, but to try to  
25 answer the question directly, I think, you know, you get

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1 opinion on additional work that I've done subsequent to  
2 the release of this document.

3 Q. And so, for example, your statement on page 3  
4 line 9 of your testimony that the risk of any direct  
5 adverse health effect at levels below 45 decibels is  
6 virtually nonexistent, did you form that opinion after  
7 conducting your comprehensive review on behalf of the  
8 American Wind Energy Association?

9 A. I actually drew that conclusion after looking  
10 at the WHO report subsequent to the release of the paper.

11 Q. We'll come back to that. So you didn't hold  
12 that opinion in 2009?

13 A. The opinions I held in 2009 are stated in the  
14 document.

15 Q. Okay. Was that a finding that was made as  
16 part of that report that there's no risk below 45  
17 decibels?

18 A. I can't recall as I sit here all the -- it's  
19 about a 50-page report. I can't recall every aspect of  
20 it.

21 Q. Now I want to make sure I understand the  
22 statement that I just read from your testimony. You  
23 mentioned direct adverse health effects, but you would  
24 admit there could be indirect adverse health impacts from  
25 wind turbine noise from levels below 45 decibels such as

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1 sleep disturbance, annoyance, and stress?

2 A. I believe I stated that, yes.

3 Q. And if you would turn to -- well I don't need  
4 to turn to it. Do you also agree that the health impacts  
5 associated with sleep disturbance may be experienced at  
6 noise levels below 45 decibels?

7 A. I'm sorry. Can you repeat your question  
8 again? As much --

9 Q. Do you agree that the health impacts  
10 associated with sleep disturbance may be experienced at  
11 noise levels below 45 decibels?

12 A. It's certainly possible. Yes.

13 Q. And do you agree that annoyance from wind  
14 turbine noise may cause recognized medical disorders such  
15 as sleep deprivation?

16 A. That's one of the theories that annoyance can  
17 lead to sleep disturbance, yes.

18 Q. And you admit that annoyance from noise may  
19 have an adverse effect on people's health and well being?

20 A. Well I think if it's stated I agree with it.  
21 Yes.

22 Q. I'm asking if you agree with it?

23 A. Would you please state the -- repeat your  
24 question please and refer to where your source is.

25 Q. The source is actually a discovery question.

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1 below 35 decibels, something along those lines, maybe 40.  
2 I'll have to be honest with you I don't know. Do you see  
3 that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So based on all your research and knowledge on  
6 this topic it was your opinion just this past summer when  
7 you were speaking for yourself and not on behalf of the  
8 industry that you would want the standard, if it was your  
9 home involved, to be the noise should be kept below 35  
10 decibels, maybe 40. That's what you stated?

11 A. That's what I stated subsequently to making  
12 the comment that you just read, that I would go through  
13 and tabulate all the studies because I would want to make  
14 sure I have all the information.

15 I also want to make sure that I had a good  
16 understanding of how the noise level was measured, whether  
17 it was one hour annual and so forth, whether the data were  
18 modeled or measured. I think they are very key  
19 distinctions in how noise levels are determined whether  
20 they are modeled or measured. So this is a question in a  
21 public forum off the top of my head without having gone  
22 through all the literature.

23 Q. You hadn't gone --

24 A. I had gone through all the literature, but I  
25 mean I didn't have all available exposure data. I mean

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1 this is a speculative question that was posed to me.

2 Q. It was a speculative question. They asked you  
3 how far you would want the wind turbines, and you said  
4 it's not about distance it's about noise, and if it was  
5 your house involved, you would want the noise level to be  
6 35 maybe 40 decibels. Isn't that what you stated here?

7 A. That's exactly what I stated there, yes.

8 Q. And that at that time you had done all the  
9 research to have all the knowledge and tabulated all the  
10 data. You just stated that?

11 A. And I did state there, as I said, quote, I'll  
12 have to be honest with you I don't know.

13 MR. MARGOLIS: That's all I have. Thank  
14 you.

15 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: I just want to follow up  
16 with you. Where would the 35 to 40 decibels  
17 be measured? At your house?

18 DR. McCUNNEY: I think it would be  
19 always a good idea to measure exterior to the  
20 house.

21 CHAIRMAN VOLZ: So you thought 35 to 40  
22 exterior when you made that comment?

23 DR. McCUNNEY: I presume so. I don't  
24 remember at the time. I mean this is a  
25 transcript I have never looked at before and

